

Message Text

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67

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 L-03 /014 W

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O 032153Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5504

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7369

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CASC, CI

SUBJECT: W/W ARRESTS: AMERICAN CHURCHPEOPLE INVOLVED WITH GOC
SECURITY AUTHORITIES

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 7327; (B) SANTIAGO 7328

1. CONSULAR OFFICER JUST INFORMED (EVENING NOVEMBER 3) THAT
MARYKNOLL FATHER RICHARD J. SAMMON (PARA 7 REF B) WAS NOT REPEAT
NOT DETAINED BY GOC SECURITY FORCES. CONTRARY TO MARYKNOLL
STORY YESTERDAY, SANTIAGO SUPERIOR OF MARYKNOLL ORDER NOW
SAYS THAT HE TALKED TO SAMMON NOVEMBER 2, AND WAS TOLD THAT
SAMMON HAD BEEN "VISITED" BY SECURITY PEOPLE BUT HAD NOT BEEN
DETAINED.

2. MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR WILL VISIT SAMMON NOVEMBER 4 OR 5 AND REPORT
BACK. US CONSULAR OFFICER ON TRIP SOUTH FOR PAROLE PROGRAM WILL
ALSO TRY TO SEE SAMMON NOVEMBER 4.

3. FONMIN OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS REPORTED
TO EMBOFF NOVEMBER 3 THAT CASES OF SAMMON, KATHLEEN MARIE OSBERGER
(REF A), AND BARBARA NELSON (REFTELS) HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION
OF FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY EARLY NOVEMBER 3. UNDER SECRETARY
REPORTEDLY GAVE STRICT AND PEREMPTORY ORDERS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION
AND INVESTIGATION BY FONMINISTRY. ACTION OFFICERS WERE IN TOUCH
TO GOC SECURITY AUTHORITIES, WHO WILL REPORT DIRECT TO US CONSULAR
OFFICER AS SOON AS THEY ESTABLISH INFORMATION ON CASES IN QUESTION.

4. FONMIN OFFICER REPORTED ALSO THAT GOC SECURITY FORCES ARE
LOOKING FOR US CITIZEN FLORENCE RICE AND ELIZABETH GILMORE;
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OFFICER DID NOT KNOW THEIR ORDERS. CONSULAR OFFICERS NOVEMBER

2 AND 3 TALKED WITH HOLY CROSS PRIEST WHO SAID THAT BOTH RICE
(OF HOLY CROSS ORDER) AND GILMORE (APPARENTLY A LAY TEACHER)
HAD NOT BEEN DETAINED. CONSULAR OFFICER HAD EARLIER HEARD THEY
MIGHT HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITH FATHER GERALD WHEELAND (PARA 8
REF B).

5. EMBASSY WILL PURSUE MATTER WITH FONMIN.
POPPER

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